Products...Target...Segment Architecture

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1. Segment Architecture Development

VA EA is developing a series of segment architectures for facilitating target architecture implementation.

At VA, segment architecture defines:

- The architecture of a group of related Core-Mission Business Lines along with their IT projects and their business process improvements. The benefit of this segment type is that it permits identification and implementation of common services among highly related business lines and it supports local, or Administration-determined, project implementation techniques. This type of segment architecture is aligned with the FEA-BRM, as is its supported business lines.
- The architecture of a crosscutting Business Service or business-support discipline that is intended for shared use across the entire enterprise. The benefit of this segment type is that it will enforce the use of standardized processes and data sharing and re-use across the enterprise. This type of segment architecture is aligned with the FEA-SRM, as are the sharable (or common) services that it provides.

The development of segment architectures will promote and accelerate a substantial reduction in IT project implementation cost, as legacy IT applications are redesigned and replaced. The use of segment architectures will also eliminate enterprise-wide data duplication and the necessity of reconciling the differences that occur when the same data is collected and stored by multiple stove-piped processes.

VA plans to develop three Core-Mission Segment Architectures to support related business lines with common IT implementation strategies. Each of these segment architectures has been devised to optimize the development of common, shared services and data re-use among the segment's participating business lines, and to accommodate the existing common IT development methodologies that have evolved in their respective development environments. These segments are:

- The Health Architecture Segment;
- The Benefits Architecture Segment; and
- The Burials and Memorials and Headquarters Architecture Segment.

Additionally, VA plans to develop seven cross-cutting Business-Service Segment Architectures, which will provide common services and data that are required by many or all of the Core-Mission Segments. They are:

- The Identity Management Services Architecture Segment;
- The Knowledge Management Services Architecture Segment;
- The Financial Services Architecture Segment;

- The Material Management Services Architecture Segment;
- The Human Resource Services Architecture Segment;
- The Education &Training Services Architecture Segment; and
- The Information Technology Services Architecture Segment.

VA's segment architectures permit each segment's IT developers to apply local IT development standards and best practices to the respective segment's development. However, the application of local standards to a Segment Architecture cannot impede or restrain the development and use of shareable components and shared data across segments and across the enterprise as a whole.

As these segment architectures are planned and developed, existing, ongoing IT projects will be associated with them. Since many of the current IT projects under development already incorporate plans for data and process sharing, this approach will not disrupt project development.

The following diagram, Figure 1.1, depicts the segment architectures that have been proposed for development over the current Target-Architecture phased implementation. Of these, only one segment architectural specification, the Identity Services Segment, will be fully developed for EA V4.2, however several others segment architectures are being started in FY-2007. See a large version of this diagram referenced below.
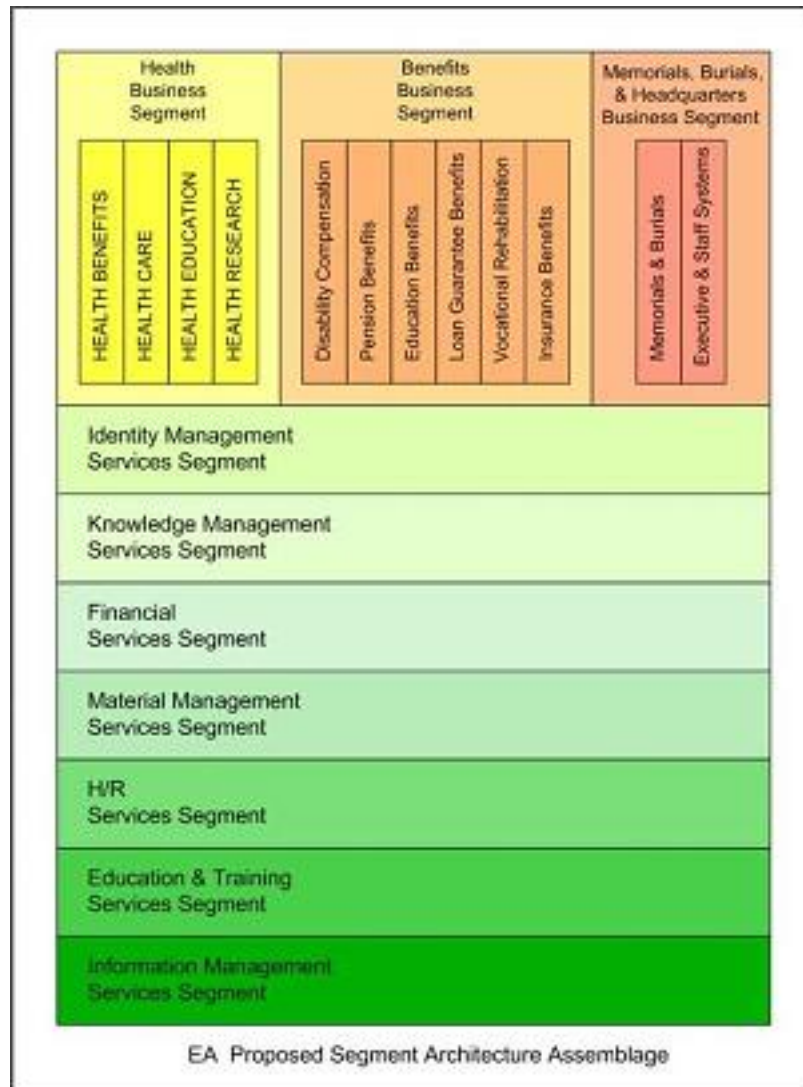
EA Proposed Segment Architecture Assemblage

Figure 1.1 Proposed Segment Architecture Assemblage

Reference(s):

- Target Segment Architecture Assemblage.pdf

1.1. Segment Architecture Abstracts

The EA provides the following Segment Architecture Abstracts that VA has approved or

proposed for development:

- Identity Services Segment: The Identity Service Segment has been approved and developed for EA in FY-2007.
- *Knowledge Management Services Segment (Proposed)*: Development of the Knowledge Management Services Segment Architecture has been identified but has not been approved or scheduled.
- Financial Services Segment (Proposed): The Financial Service Segment has been proposed, and if approved, will be developed for EA in FY-2008.
- *Material Management Services Segment (Proposed)*: Development of the Material (Asset) Management Segment Architecture has been identified but has not been approved or scheduled.
- *Human Resources Services Segment (Proposed)*: Development of the Human Resources Services Segment Architecture has been identified but has not been approved or scheduled.
- *Education & Training Services Segment (Proposed)*: Development of the Education & Training Segment Architecture has been identified but has not been approved or scheduled.
- Information Management Services Segment (Proposed): The Information Management Service Segment has been proposed, and if approved, will be developed for EA in FY-2008.
- *Health Architecture Segment (Proposed)*: The Health Segment Architecture has been scheduled for development in FY-2008.
- Benefits Architecture Segment (Proposed): The Benefits Architecture Segment has been proposed, and if approved, will be developed for EA in FY-2008.
- Memorial, Burial, & Headquarters Architecture Segment (Proposed): Development of the Memorial, Burial and headquarters Segment architecture has been identified but has not been approved or scheduled.

1.2. Segment Implementation

Each segment architecture represents a subset of the overall One-VA EA. Each segment architecture allow for a degree of federalization or uniqueness that is specific to the segmented area, while still enforcing the principles of data and process reuse, the emphasis on applying government-wide solutions, and the technical standards, which have been established at the One-VA Enterprise Architecture Level. In order to ensure that segment architectures are consistent with the One-VA EA, each segment architecture must be approved by the VA Chief Architect as well as accepted by the Segment Owner.

The Office of Enterprise Architecture Management, working with the business owner or sharable service owner, the Administration enterprise architects, and related IT development PMOs, develops segment Architectures collaboratively. It is imperative that business stakeholders and organizational entities participate in the segment architecture's development. Since not all communities of interest have enterprise or solution architects on staff, the segment architecture's

published documents are developed by the Chief Architect and the Office of Enterprise Architecture Management, in collaboration with these stakeholders.

Once a segment architecture has been developed to the satisfaction of its community of stakeholders, it is presented for acceptance to the Chief Architect and to the Segment Owner. After being accepted, the segment architecture will be used as the guiding IT design document within its domain. In areas for which segment architectures have been defined, segment architecture alignment is a mandatory pre-condition for IT investment.

For each developed segment architecture, a Segment Architecture Handbook will be provided in the "EA Planning Documents" section of the "Products" Tab, within the EA Portal. There is also a link to the respective Segment Architecture Handbook within each Segment Architecture Abstract, above. In EA, only the Identity Services Segment Architecture is sufficiently developed to provide a segment handbook.

1.3. Projected Segment Architecture Benefits and Outcomes

The following diagram, Figure 1.2 depicts the recommended implementation of segment architectures across VA (see a large version in the referenced document). The diagram indicates when positive business outcomes may be expected, either from the direct implementation of the segment architecture, from the aggregated impact of multiple segment architectures or from advancing early pilot features if the segment architecture into production, in advance of the full availability of the segment architecture.
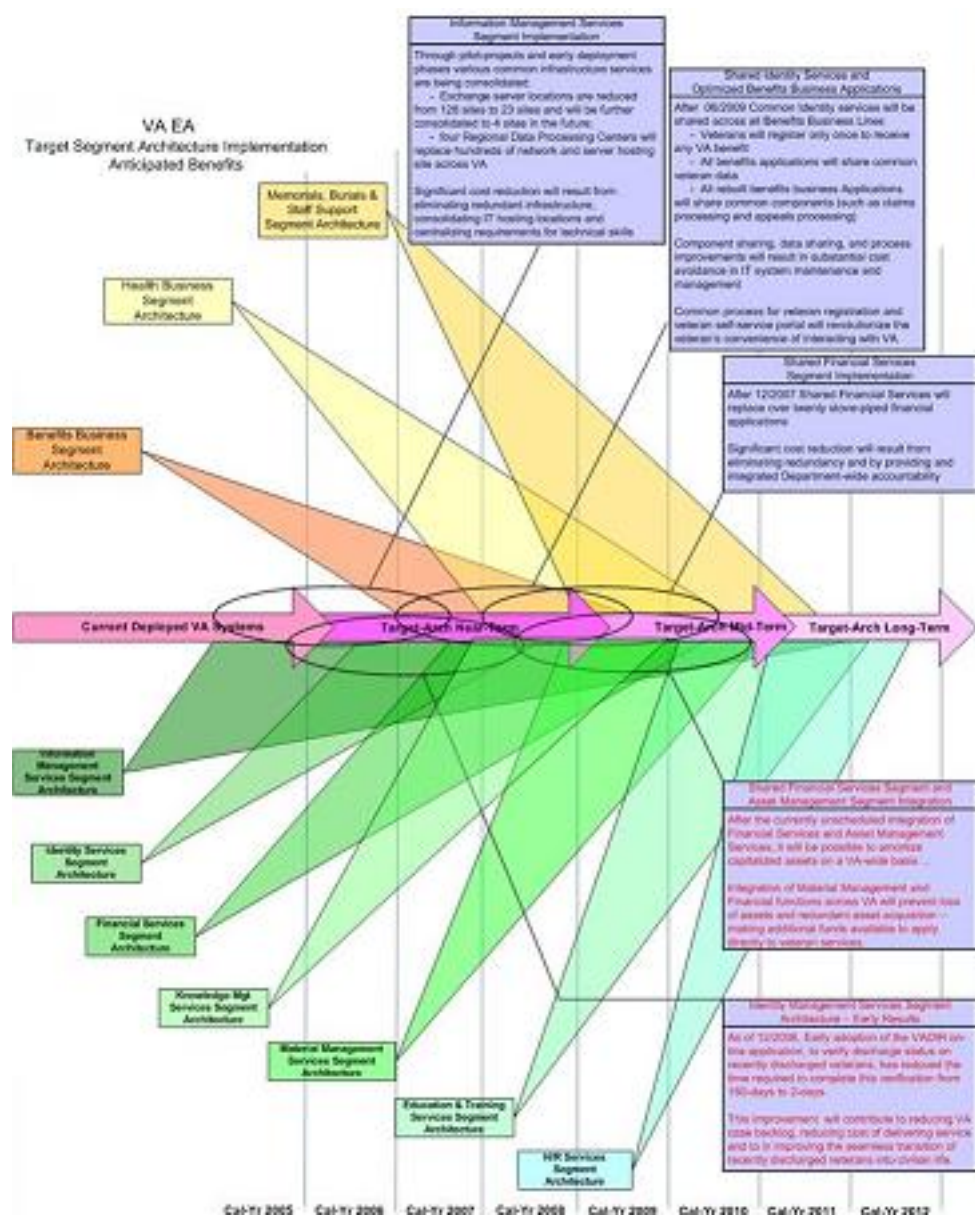
Figure 1.2 Projected Segment Architecture Benefits

Reference(s):

- SA Benefits.pdf